

(Private)

Joseph A. Dugdale -

1 Mo 3, 1863

Mt. Pleasant, Iowa.

William L. Garrison

Dear Friend. When I last looked into thy eyes at
the home of our kind friend A. H. Loez in Phil^a we expected
to be again in Penn^a - We found a beautiful farm
for sale near the little city of Mt Pleasant and have been
induced to remain here with our children - In Iowa
there are two meetings of (the white) Friends in all about
80 families - We purchased within four miles of where they
held their monthly meeting - A number of the officers and
active members were once members of the Green Plain Me^e
ting where we fought the battle for liberty ^{in Ohio} - The Friends here
without a dissenting voice extended the hand of cordial
greeting - Welcomed us to their meetings and insisted upon
treating us with all the courtesy usually bestowed upon
ministers & members - ~~The war~~ ^{was} ~~rapidly~~ ^{rapidly} and we not
knowing but our son might be drafted concluded to tarry
get longer here, until at last it seems as if it might
now be our permanent home - We continued to attend
the meetings just as tho we were members, business meet
ings and all, for they would hear to nothing else - Once
when I retired they sent a deputation to invite me
to return! I did so and then gave them a plain talk
upon the cause which separated me from ~~them~~ ⁱⁿ Friends
in Ohio. They said they understood it all, and had no
sympathy with those who did it - I have held religious
meetings & meetings for children which have been

Friends in Southern Ohio were members of Indiana Yearly meeting.

attended by large numbers of people - according to my ability. I have spoken for the dumb in them all - Friends would attend them also, and their presences freely went with me to many and it entered into the service with too. Finally these good people said "we want thee to have thy name enrolled among us" - I said "I am a Repressive Friend and cannot consent to be separated from them or trampled in any way" - They replied "we shall not interfere with thy scruples" - We would not have thee in any way to withdraw from the Progressive Friends - One of the elders said "I should be ashamed of thee if thee if thee did" - This body here are not connected with Indiana & Meeting which excommunicated me but the Discipline requires that I should ask the consent & obtain it from that body - I said to them the acknowledgement I should make would be that I had plead the cause of the slave and you cut me off for it I am glad I did it and Heaven helping me I would do it again" - They said that was right so right in the face of the Discipline with an unusual one voice they made me a member - More than that, without the slightest intimation to me of their design to do so, or any suspicion on my part that they intended it - they rebuked the conduct of the Indiana friends still further, and restored me to my former position as a minister - Well one of the first acts I did in their Discipline Meeting, was to propose that in the name of the Society a letter should be addressed to the President on the subject of Emancipating the slaves which was

unanimously adopted - It may be I shall find myself cramped but I have believed it was best for me to submit myself to the circumstances which have surrounded me and to bear testimony to the truth as I may be enabled among the people where my lot is cast, as well as in the highway and bye ways where the spirit of the Lord shall open the way - The truth is the Friends here would have been on the Anti-Slavery & Progressive platform had they been with us in Penn^a - I have put into the hands of every family ~~there~~ a copy of the minutes of the last Yearly Meeting held at Longwood - I have made no concessions, but on the contrary uttered my testimony against the spirit which bore rule in excommunicating us. This testimony they (the Friends here) put on record as the basis of their action, and then proceeded in the face of the usage and discipline to do what they did. Now in thy private ear I want to say I never left the Society of Friends as a seceder - I was expelled because I would not hush when the slave pined in fetters. Now my lot is cast here in this new & fertile western world where my history was well known, & where the children have outgrown the intolerance of their fathers and as some of them said they wanted to have justice done even at this late hour - I have written this little statement to thee because I wanted to, and when thou reads it burn it and oblige one who loves thee with a warm Christian affection and shares with thee

yet to see the accursed system of slavery over-
thrown as we have seen its bark broken - Our dear
regretted Mother is sitting by my side (she has been
a member here about a year) she desires her love
tenderly and affectionately to thee and thy dear
Helen in which my dear Ruth joins - I can't be
fanny as any other than the darling little girl I
kissed and presented with a flower - If she
will come to Iowa next summer I will take
her into our vast prairies where she can pick tens
of thousands of beautiful wild flowers and hear
the wild birds sing their songs of freedom.

With love abounding I am thy friend
Joseph Adair

P.S. If the other letter enclosed is worthy a place
in the Liberator it is at thy service otherwise let
it go to join the consuming fire.

Please send receipt for the enclosed remittance.

Members in Southern Ohio were members of Indiana Yearly Meeting.